

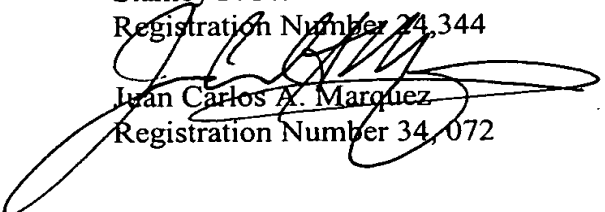
REMARKS

The above amendment to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated July 26, 2002, in referenced to the Office Action dated January 15, 2002, and response to said Office Action filed July 12, 2002. The Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344


Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration Number 34,072

REED SMITH LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200
July 31, 2002



Marked-up Copy of Abstract

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[A reclining mechanism for a vehicle seat composed of a first attachment member mounted to a frame structure of a seat cushion or a back rest of the vehicle seat, a second attachment member mounted to a frame structure of the other of the back rest or the seat cushion, the attachment members being coupled with each other at their outer peripheries and connected by means of a hinge pin for relative rotation about the hinge pin, a slide pawl slidably mounted within one of the attachment members to be moved toward and away from a ratchet portion formed on an inner periphery of the other of the attachment members, and a cam element mounted on the hinge pin in a space between the attachment members and being engaged with the slide pawl for maintaining the slide pawl in engagement with the ratchet portion of the attachment member when the hinge pin is retained in position under load of a torsion spring assembled thereon and for disengaging the slide pawl from the ratchet portion of the attachment member when the hinge pin is rotated against the load of the torsion spring, wherein either the frame structure of the seat cushion or the frame structure of the back rest has a support portion formed with an annular recess for engagement with the outer peripheries of the attachment members, and wherein the attachment members are assembled as a unit by engagement with the annular recess of the support portion of the frame structure at their outer peripheries.]